REMARKS

CLAIMS 1-9

Claims 1-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (U.S. Patent 6,505,162, hereinafter Wang). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of Fratkina et al. (U.S. Patent 7,226,962, hereinafter Fratkina).

Applicant first notes that Fratkina has been withdrawn by the U.S. Patent Office after its issuance. As such, Fratkina is not available as issued for Applicant to review. Applicant was able to download U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0049688 for U.S. Patent Application 09/798,964, which became U.S. Patent 7,226,962. However, it is not clear how the application and the withdrawn patent differed.

It is also noted that U.S. Patent Application 09/798,964 has a filing date of March 6, 2001 that is after the priority date of September 14, 2000 of the present application. The 09/798,964 application does claim priority to Provisional Application 60/187,472, filed on March 6, 2000. However, since only the provisional filing date precedes the priority date of the present application, only the information in Provisional Application 60/187,472 that is provided in Fratkina U.S. 2001/0049688 qualifies as prior art against the present application. Unfortunately, Provisional Application 60/187,472 is not available online because it consists of over 11,000 pages. As such, if Fratkina U.S. 2001/0049688 is to continue to be used as a reference against the present application, Applicant respectfully requests that support for any rejections be taken from Provisional Application 60/187,472 and that copies of the relevant pages of the provisional application be provided in the next Office Action.

Independent claim 1 provides a system for providing a computer-based dialog interface to a user. The system includes a dialog state engine that receives input from the user and that uses at least one stochastic model to generate at least one probability of a current dialog state given the user's input and a previous dialog state. A rendering engine uses a stochastic model to identify a probability of at least one action given a current dialog state.

With the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to change "model" to "stochastic model" and to change "score" to "probability." Support for these amendments is found on page 32, line 3 to page 34, line 15. Similar amendments have been made to claims 2, 4 and 8.

As amended, claim 1 is not shown nor suggested in either Wang or Fratkina. In particular, neither reference shows or suggests using at least one stochastic model to generate at least one probability of a current dialog state given the user's input in a previous dialog state and using a stochastic model to identify a probability of at least one action given a current dialog state.

In the Office Action, FIG. 6 of Wang was cited as showing the selection of a dialog state according to speech and a previous dialog state and the selection of a response action. However, FIG. 6 of Wang does not show or suggest using at least one stochastic model to generate at least one probability of a current dialog state given the user's input in a previous dialog state and FIG. 6 does not show or suggest using a stochastic model to identify a probability of at least one action given a current dialog state. As such, the combination of Wang and Fratkina does not show or suggest the invention of claim 1 or claims 2-9, which depend therefrom.

CLAIMS 10-13

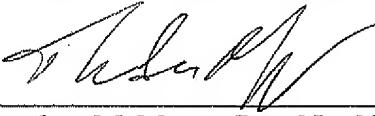The Office Action indicated that claims 10-13 have been allowed.

CLAIMS 14-15

The Office Action indicated that claim 15 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. With the present amendment, the limitations of claim 15 have been added to claim 14 and claim 15 has been canceled. As amended, claim 14 represents claim 15 written in independent form. As such, claim 14 is in form for allowance.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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